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Dear parents / carers,

Here at Greenside, we pride ourselves on our child-centred approach and our mantra of 'Where Children Come First.' In the modern world, schools and their communities continue to become more complex and diverse, and we are constantly adapting our practice to meet the needs of our community.

School Decision Making

Throughout the school year, all school staff are entrusted to make a range of decisions ranging from seating plans within class, groupings on educational visits or whether pupils need additional support in any area. Any decision-making process is done collaboratively and always takes into the account the needs of all pupils utilising the professional judgement and expertise of school staff.

While we welcome feedback, persistent challenges to decisions that are lawful, risk-assessed, and educationally justified can undermine the stability and effectiveness of the school environment. It is important to be clear that:

- Not all decisions will align with every individual viewpoint
- Schools are not required to provide bespoke alternatives unless legally necessary (e.g. under equality law)
- Adjustments are considered where appropriate, but must remain **reasonable, proportionate, and in the collective interest**

May I also take this opportunity to thank all of our staff at Greenside, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to provide our pupils with the best possible experiences beyond the classroom. We are very fortunate as a school to have so many dedicated staff who are willing to commit their own time and time with their families to facilitate residential experiences.

WhatsApp Groups & Social Media

I would also like to take the opportunity to remind all members of our school community about the importance of maintaining respectful, appropriate, and responsible communication when using social media and messaging platforms, including WhatsApp parent groups. While we recognise that these groups can be helpful for sharing information, we have become aware of instances where discussions relating to children, families and members of staff have caused concern. We ask that all parents remain mindful that messages shared in such groups can have unintended consequences if they are inaccurate, inappropriate or disrespectful.

We therefore ask all parents/carers to:

- Communicate respectfully and responsibly at all times
- Avoid speculation or sharing unverified information
- Refrain from discussing individual children, families, or staff members in group chats

We remain committed to open communication and to working positively with families and ask that you continue to trust in school. We appreciate your understanding and continued support in enabling us to deliver a rich, balanced

and meaningful education for every child. If you have any concerns, we strongly encourage you to raise them directly with the school through the appropriate channels, where they can be addressed properly and confidentially.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs S Fuller
Headteacher

